

Excerpt from ASAHI SHIMBUN
for 26 November 1941, p. 2

"We have the spirit of our race in us; Let's march forward toward the establishment of the New Order" urges President of the Planning Board at the lecture on Overcoming the Difficult Situation.

At the "Mass Lecture Meeting on Overcoming the Difficult Situation" held at Hibiya Hall on the 25th under the auspices of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association in order to rally the nation's spirit to meet the grave situation, SUZUKI, President of the Planning Board, delivered the following address. He made a remarkable impression on the minds of a hundred million by declaring that self-sufficiency in the national defense economy, which is based on the East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, could be achieved by the united spiritual strength of the nation. At the same time he criticized severely the unjustness practiced in order to acquire colonies in the Orient, by the hostile countries of the United States and Britain, who are trying to block Japan's way.

The Gist of the Address

The present world is in the crucible of cataclysm. I believe that this worldwide war is certainly neither a temporary nor a local problem but is something which is following a course toward an extremely fundamental war. I dare say that this world war will in the future display all manner of phenomena, and will continue its disturbances until such time as a new order is firmly established and a leading power decided.

No matter how the world situation may change, our national policy established upon the Divine Message will never be shaken. However, in the course of proceeding to carry out this national policy there now exist many obstacles, and beyond these will appear still greater obstacles.

In order to surmount these obstacles and accomplish our national policy, the nation must be rapidly consolidated and firmly established on a basis of national defense. The strongest foundation of a nation organized for national defense is the national spirit that its people possess. As regards national spirit, I am convinced that what our Japanese Empire has is superior to that of any country in the world. The other characteristic of a nation organized for national defense is the physical one, which is based on this spirit. As to this phase, Japan has, in the process of her past economic development, excessively adopted systems which existed in foreign lands. The physical characteristic of a nation organized for national defense is the firm establishment of a system of self-sufficiency in materials which are essential to a nation so organized.

To achieve this self-sufficiency is by no means easy, but it is not impossible. To do this, a system of self-sufficiency in East Asia shall be established by combining the natural resources of Japan, Manchukuo and China with those throughout such regions as French Indo-China, Thailand, the South Seas, etc. I believe that if this system of economic self-sufficiency were once established, it would immediately be possible for Japan to declare her ideas to the world and take the lead in the establishment of a new world order.

However, the present situation requires us to exploit by ourselves the resources in such areas of Japan, Manchuria, China, and French Indo-China as are held by force of the Imperial Army and to utilize them in the system of self-sufficiency. This, it is by no means easy. Hereafter, therefore, we shall have to cut down to the lowest possible limit our means of living, which hitherto has had no direct connection with the nation as organized for national defense, and shift it in the direction of the nation so organized. At present our nation should proceed along the path which follows the precepts of the Divine Message and which, being fair and just, is true and infallible in all places.

In regard to this, however, what about the attitude of Britain, the United States and other countries? They denounce what our country does as aggression. However, looking back now at what they have done in the past, we are confronted with the question of whether or not they have any grounds for criticism of our country's actions.

History remains undeniable. How did they take India, divide Africa, and go on to seize Manila, HongKong and Shanghai? And how did they take Java, Hawaii and the Philippines? How can they still be qualified to criticize what another country does?

Properly speaking, the fundamental cause of the present world conflict lies in the maintenance of the status quo which is based on their utilitarian ideas. Since the Ottawa Conference, the world's economic circles have fallen into utter confusion. Therefore, if we are faced in the future with a still greater worldwide conflict, the blame will rest on Churchill of England and Roosevelt. Reflecting upon and repentant of the path they have followed, they should rectify the course they are to take.

Moreover, our nation has a racial spirit which no other people in the world can equal, and it is this unity that is most essential in warfare. Could there be in the world any other nation of 70 million people having a common spirit and common ideas?

It will be sufficient if, at the time of greatest importance to the nation's survival, we rely upon our racial spirit and put our possessions to practical use. Therefore, I am convinced that whatever situation may henceforth confront us, our country, having really

bright prospects, can become a leading power in the new world order. We all really strengthen our awareness that we are Japanese and thoroughly comprehend the basic principle of the national structure so as to overcome the difficult situation.

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我に民族の魂を 進め新秩序建設へ

難局突破講演會で 企畫院總裁強調

重大時局に對峙し國民の奮起を促すため二十五日日本
公會堂で開催された難局突破講演會主催「難局突破大講演會」
におき、鈴木企畫院總裁は次の如く演説を行つたが東三
共榮圈に立脚する國防經濟の自給化は國民一致の精神を
によつて完遂し得ると断ずるとともに我國の進路を阻むと
する英米敵性國家が東洋に於ける植民地獲得のために
行つた不正義を痛撃し、億國民に異常の感銘を與へた

演説要旨

現下の世界は大戦亂の渦中にあるこの世界の戦亂は決
して一時局部の問題ではなく極々根本的なる戦亂の道
程をたゞてゐるものと思ふこの世界戦亂は今後各種の現象
を辿り新れたる秩序が確立され一つの指導力が決定せられ
るまで永きにわたつてその戦亂を繼續するのではないかと察せらる
世界の情勢がいかに変化してもわが神勅を奉じて打建つた
國是は微動なほしないやあるべきこの國是を遂行し進
展し行く途上には、現に幾多の障礙が存在しさらに續い
ても大なる障礙が發生せんといへる

この障礙を突破しわが國是を完遂するためには何と云ふも
國防國家体制を急速に整備確立せねばならぬ國防國家

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の第一基底はその民族の持つ國威精神である。この國威精神の面においてはわが大日本帝國は世界のいかなる國にも劣らざる最優秀なるものを保有しておる。私は確信する。國防國家体制の他の面はこゝ魂の上に立つところ。物的面である。この面に關しは日本は過去の日本の經濟の發展過程からいふやうに、今にも多く外國に依存した体制を取つた國防國家体制。物的面は何一つも國防國家に必要なる物資の自給体制の確立である。

この自給化といふことはなかなか容易なることではない。しかしながら不可能ではない。それにはまず日滿支三國を通じ、これに佛印、タイ、南洋、かういふ方面無数の天然資源を併せて東亞の自給体制の確立を目指す。一度この經濟の自給体制が確立されることになれば、こゝに初め日本は世界に向つて思想を訴へ、新たな世界秩序の建設に對する指導力を把握することが可能であると思ふ。

しかしながら今日は日本、滿洲、支那、佛印からいふ皇軍の力による把握されておるこれらの資源を自らの力によつて開發し、これを自給体制に活用せねばならぬのであるから決して容易ではない。従つて今後従来國防國家体制に直接の關係のない面におけるわれわれの生活は最も最低限に切詰めるだけ切詰めて、これを國防國家体制の面に轉換しなければならぬ。今日我國の進むべき道は神勅の示し給ふところによつて動いてゐる。正々臣を何ら中外に施し誤らぬ道である。しかるにこれに對する英米諸國の態度は如何。彼等はわが國の存続どころをもつて侵略といふのである。しかしながら翻つて彼らが過去になしたところを見て、彼らに我

No. 2

Loc. 3 210

・ 本國の行動を非難する理由がありや否やといふ問題に達着
するのである。

歴史は実に嚴しく存してゐる彼等はいつかに印度を取り、
アフリカを分割し進んで三つを奪ひ更に香港、上海あるいは
いつかにペルシャを取り、インドを取り、アフリカを取りつたであらう。
彼等には果して他の國家のやうなところを批判する資格がある
であらうか。

一体今日の世界禍亂の根柢は彼等の功利的思想に立つ現状維持
にあるのである。オックスの會議以来世界の經濟界は非常に
混亂を來してゐるからが故にもし今後どうに續いて世界の禍
亂が擴大するといふ場合に達着するならば、この罪はイギリスの
やうなものである。まればドイツであるのである。彼等自らの
歩んで來たところの道程を反省し悔悟して彼等は自己の歩む
べき道を更正すべきである。

況やわが國には世界のいかなる民族も追求の出來ない民族の
魂がある。一しかる戦ひに取つて缺くべからざるものはこの
和である。世界のいかなるところに魂を同じうし思想を同じにする
七千万の民族をもつ國家があるであらうか。

我々は我々の民族の魂を信じ、我々の持つてゐるこのものを最も
國家が生きてゐるために必要な面に活用するこれを以て事足りるの
である。かような次第であるが故に今後いかなる事態が前面に展開しよう
とも眞にわが國が日本人たる自覺を強化し國體の本義に徹し、この難局
突破に當るならばわが國の前途は誠に洋々として、新しい世界の秩序に
おける指導力となり得る。私は確信を致すのである。

No. 3